

House Resolution 1191

By: Representatives Smyre of the 135th, Hugley of the 136th, Smith of the 134th, Buckner of the 137th, and Pezold of the 133rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending South Columbus United Methodist Church on the occasion
2 of its 72nd anniversary; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, South Columbus United Methodist Church was founded in 1941 as a mission
4 church for Fort Benning soldiers who were mobilized for World War II and their families;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, the church was originally called Baker Village Methodist Church, and its
7 services were held under pine trees near the current location where a wooden building, built
8 with the help of other Methodist churches, now stands; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1953, the church adopted the name South Columbus United Methodist
10 Church, and the present sanctuary and seven-room Sunday school annex were built over the
11 next four years; and

12 WHEREAS, in the 1970s, changes in the makeup of the community were reflected in the
13 declining membership of South Columbus United Methodist Church; and

14 WHEREAS, in an effort to save the church, South Columbus United Methodist Church
15 appointed its first African American minister, Reverend Joseph Roberson, to reflect the
16 changing demographics of the community; and

17 WHEREAS, under Reverend Roberson's leadership, the church increased its membership
18 significantly and expanded its sphere of influence in the community; and

19 WHEREAS, Reverend Denise Walton became the first female pastor of South Columbus
20 United Methodist Church in 2008 and was instrumental in continuing the growth of the
21 church and stressing the importance of the church serving its community; and

22 WHEREAS, in 2011, Reverend Reggie Williams was appointed pastor and has continued the
23 mission of reaching out to veterans and servicemen and their families in the community; and

24 WHEREAS, Reverend Williams's primary focus has been on "Bridging the Gap and
25 Reconnecting the Church with the Community"; and

26 WHEREAS, the church faced difficult times in 2012, including burglaries and a fire in the
27 sanctuary, but the church weathered the storm, and 2013 has been a year of renewal and
28 renovation.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 the members of this body commend Reverend Reggie Williams and South Columbus United
31 Methodist Church on its 72nd anniversary and join in honoring the rich history and
32 promising future of South Columbus United Methodist Church, "The Place Where the Best
33 is Yet to Come."

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
35 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to South Columbus United
36 Methodist Church.